Chairman of STC

3532. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISH RA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Sudhir Mulji, Chairman of the STC, is a British Passport holder;

(b) whether he has substantial financial interests in the UK including properties etc., and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of job/business hand led by Shri Mulji during the last five years prior to his appointment as STC Chairman alongwith the details of companies and their locations; and

(d) the details of other Indian and foreign companies on which he is a member of Board of Directors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI); (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Shri Mulji's financial interests in UK are confined to certain insurance policies about which the Reserve Bank of India hag been duly informed.

(c) In the last five years prior to his appointment as Chairman STC, Shri Mulji was Chairman of Great Eastern Shipping Corporation London and president of that Corporation. He was also an outside Director of various companies located in England, America and Hong Kong.

(d) Shri Mulji is not a Director of any other Tndian or foreign company at present except STC.

Prices of Cardamom

3533. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: WEI the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are evolving a policy for stabilisation of price of cardamom at levels remunerative to the growers and attractive to the consumers;

(b) whether Government are taking any measures to increase the acreage of cardamom cultivation;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government will chalk out proposals for any subsidy and concessions for increasing cardamom cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) The Govt, of India are taking a number of steps to increase productivity, production and export of cardamom. *Inter-alia* they include;

(1) Grant of Cash compensatory support and air freight subsidy for increasing export of cardamom.

(2) Mferket promotion programmes in West Asia, North African Regions, USA & Canada and West Europe.

(3) Marketing efforts by Spices Training Corporation Ltd., (formerly known as Cardamom Trading Corporation Ltd including purchases by them locally.

(4) The STC and MMTC have alio been requested to promote exports of cardamom.

(5) In addition, the Spices Board is operating a number of schemes such as replantation scheme, irrigation scheme, plant protection scheme for increasing productivity and reducing cost of production.

(6) Research work is also being carried out to develop new strains to increase production.

Feasibility study regarding location of Tehri Dam in the Himalayas

3534. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NA-TARAJAN Will the Minister of ENVIRONJMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Environment sponsored a feasibility study

•egarding the location of the Tehri Dam in the Himalayas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the working group headed by Shri S. K. Roy, which assessed the environmental impact of the Dam expressed re servation over locating the Dam in a highly sensitive seismic zone and regarding extensive deforestation; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to protect the fragile eco-system of the Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE EN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Action programmes on the following aspects are to be implemented as part of the project:

—Catchment Area Treatment; —

Compensatory afforestation;

—Stability of rim slopes; and

—Setting up a network of seismic stations.

Indtistriall accidents in chemical factories

3535. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are nearly 4000 chemical factories in the country and nearly 10,000 chemicals are produced by the organised sector and that these factories account for the maximum number of industrial accidents in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that many raw materials and intermediate chemicals stored at manufacturing plants are highly toxic and dangerous and these are not covered by the Environment Protection Act, 1986; and

(c) if so, what specific action Government propose to take to ensure that safety precautions are observed by the Pesticide and Chemical Industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI RA. SANGMA); (a) As per provisional figures complied by Labour Bureau, Shimla, there were 6630 working chemical factories in the country in 1983 producing various types of chemicals. The total number of chemicals produced in these factories is not available. The rate of fatal injuries per 1000 workers during the year 1983 in the chemical industry was 0.14. During the same year, the rate of fatal injuries per 1000 workers was highest in manufacture of Basio Metal and Alloy Industries, being 0.26.

(b) and (c) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has made Provisions regarding 'hazardous substances'. Besides, the Factories Act, 1948 has recently been amended inorder to provide for special safeguards in regard to hazardous substances and lay down emergency standards and measures. Some of the provisions of the Amendment Act include general responsibilities of occupiers and manufacturers relating to health and safety of workers, declaration of safety policy and disclosure of information by the occupier in respect of hazardous processes, drawing up of emergency plans, workers' participation in safety management and accident prevention.

A number of steps have been taken by the Ministry of Labour to improve enforcement of provisions relating to safety. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening industrial hygiene laboratories under the Factories Directorates is under implementation. Steps have been taken for arranging training of Inspectors of Factories. A Project for establishment of Major Hazard Control System has also been taken up for implementation in collaboration with International Labour Organisation.